

Public Health Broward is a newsletter for the community from the Florida Department of Health in Broward. We will focus on public health issues and services offered by the Department.

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Issue #13

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Public Health Broward

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Hurricane Irma: Act fast to register for special needs shelters



Hurricane Irma is fast approaching a possible landfall in South Florida. That means people with special medical issues should waste no time to register in advance for a special needs shelter.

For fastest action, call a new phone number to reach the Florida Department of Health in Broward County ... 954-213-0705. Or, call 311.

DOH-Broward, in partnership with Broward County government, is responsible for ensuring that clients with special medical needs are triaged and placed in special needs shelters during severe weather events.

It will be much smoother and easier for people to come to

special needs shelters if they are pre-registered. Transportation can be arranged, paperwork is done and delays are cut.

Anyone with special needs should take the step, and health care practitioners and providers can help by identifying and encouraging clients with special needs to pre-register.

To be eligible, an adult or child must not need hospitalization but must meet one or more of these criteria:

- has special medical needs
- needs care that exceeds aid provided at general shelters
- has impairments or disabilities that are medically stable
- is dependent upon a health care professional to perform daily assessment and administer care
- requires minimal assistance
- depends on oxygen therapy
- is medically dependent on uninterrupted electricity
- has mental or cognitive limitations requiring assistance and is accompanied by a full-time caregiver
- is a hospice client if accompanied by caregiver or hospice nurse
- is a person whose weight does not exceed the safety weight restrictions of provided cots (after supply of hospital beds and bariatric cots are exhausted)

The adult application is available at: www.broward.org/Hurricane/AtRisk/Pages/SpecialNeeds.aspx. It is printed in English, Spanish and Creole.

The pediatric application is available in English, Spanish, Creole and Portuguese at: <http://broward.floridahealth.gov/programs-and-services/emergency-preparedness-and-response/hurricanes/index.html>.

The application should be completed by the client's primary doctor (if possible), or by the client or a

guardian, and mailed to:

ADULT
Special Needs Registry
Broward County Emergency Management Division
201 NW 84th Ave., Plantation, FL 33324

PEDIATRIC
Special Needs Registry
Florida Department of Health in Broward County
780 SW 24th St., Fort Lauderdale, FL 33315
OR fax pediatric application to 954-767-5155

Photo: Community Health Nurse Eileen McAvoy assists a woman at a Special Needs Shelter during Hurricane Matthew last year

Spotlight on ...

Kindergarten vaccination rate tops 95 percent

Special project vaccinates more students, updates records

For the first time in recent memory, the immunization rate for Broward County kindergarteners topped the DOH goal of 95 percent, a result of innovative efforts.

Fully 95.3 percent of kindergarteners at public, charter and private schools received all of their required vaccines during the 2016-17 school year.

"This is an excellent achievement that has been a priority ever since I came to Broward in 2008," says Dr. Paula Thaqi, Director of DOH-Broward. "It took many years of hard work for many years to reach this goal."

VACCINATION RATES IN BROWARD 2016-17	Students	Vaccination rate
Kindergarten: public, charter	18,664	95.7%
Kindergarten: private	2,454	92.2%
Kindergarten TOTAL	21,118	95.3%
7th Grade: public, charter	19,641	96.9%
7th Grade: private school	2,187	93.9%
7th Grade TOTAL	21,828	96.6%

The vaccination rate for 5-year-olds entering kindergarten had been inching upward steadily for years and finally hit the mark. The rate for 7th graders has topped the target for a number of years, peaking in this latest report at 96.6 percent.

What did the trick? Improved paperwork and in-school immunization clinics at schools with lower rates, says Maureen O'Keeffe, School Health Program Manager, who oversees the effort.

DOH-Broward has long believed vaccination rates in the county were artificially low, because the records of many students who were fully immunized had not been updated and incorrectly listed them as lacking one or more vaccines.

This past year, DOH-Broward nurses teamed with staffers at Broward County Public Schools and local charter schools to check immunization records of students listed as incomplete.

They found many were actually fully vaccinated, and supplied the schools and the state with documentation. Families needing shots were given information about DOH-Broward immunization sites.

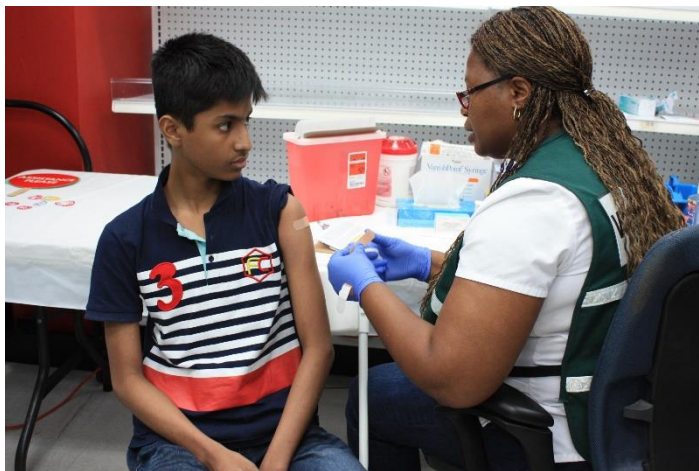
"This approach really paid off," O'Keeffe says.

To go along with the paperwork push, DOH-Broward nurses went to 11 middle schools with relatively low vaccination rates, giving required shots to students who needed them. That effort helped boost the 7th grade vaccination rate.

[DOH back-to-school campaign serves 3,000+ children](#)

For a second straight year, the Florida Department of Health in Broward County served more than 3,000 children at its annual Back to School Immunization campaign at Lauderhill Mall.

During the 2-plus weeks at the mall, DOH-Broward saw a near-record 3,078 children and gave 7,121 shots to 2,338 students. Also, Department staffers issued documentation to 740 children showing they are up to date on their shots and eligible to enter school.



The large-scale operation proved to be calmer and less rushed than in the past, for the families and the staff. Waits were shorter and stress was reduced.

Why? First, the number of children needing shots dipped a little from door-busting crowds that attended last year. Second, the operation had a bit more staff and floor space, to ease crowding. Third, other community agencies gave more back-to-school vaccinations than in the past.

"The campaign ran very smoothly this year," says Dr. Paula Thaqi, Director of DOH-Broward. "This is one of the most important services we offer to the community and it was a very positive experience."

In order to be admitted to classes in Broward County, students are required to be vaccinated against nine contagious diseases, including measles, mumps, chickenpox, whooping cough, tetanus and hepatitis B.

The families who attended this year included a growing number of Portuguese speakers, more Spanish speakers and those speaking a host of other languages, from Creole to Russian.

The campaign featured three evening sessions to serve working parents, plus a traditional Saturday health fair sponsored by KidCare Outreach, with almost 50 information tables from community organizations spread throughout the mall.

The family-fun event brought in an estimated 1,500 people. About 750 children received free backpacks filled with school supplies, and about 100 vaccinated children received free bicycle helmets. Feeding South Florida distributed free produce to 902 adults and 882 children.

Photo: MD Pamel, 15, receives his vaccinations

[Breastfeeding celebrated at 1st Global Big Latch-On event](#)

The Breastfeeding Coalition of Broward County led by DOH-Broward scored a big hit on its inaugural event celebrating World Breastfeeding Week and the Global Big Latch-On.

The First Annual Breastfeeding Celebration attracted 135 mothers, expectant mothers, fathers and children – and even a few pets – to Plantation Central Park for a morning of fun and exercise.

The group embarked on a low-stress walk of about a mile.

Women gave presentations about the benefits of breastfeeding and their experiences bonding with their babies as part of the process.

Meanwhile, kids played on swings and climbing equipment in the tot park. Several organizations set up information tables and handed out freebies.

Then, the group engaged in fun activities as part of the Global “Big Latch On” observance conducted around the world. The highlight was a yoga session in the grass to promote health and relaxation.

“We consider this day to be a great success,” says Esther March Singleton, Breastfeeding Coordinator in DOH-Broward’s Women Infants & Children program, who is also chair of the coalition.

DOH-Broward’s partners in the event were the Urban League of Broward County and Broward Healthy Start Coalition. About 20 staffers from WIC and partner organizations helped with the duties.

Similar events have been done in past years by those partners, but they were held separately. This was the first combined event with breastfeeding coalition and Urban League.

Photo: Pregnant women, their families and breastfeeding supporters enjoyed yoga and other activities at Plantation Central Park



[National public health group recognizes HPV project](#)

In its nationwide blog, the National Association of County and City Health Officials singled out DOH-Broward’s campaign that has increased the number of adolescents vaccinated against human papilloma virus (HPV).

HPV vaccine is given to males and females from ages 11 to 26 to prevent the virus, which can cause cervical and other cancers.

Broward’s campaign stemmed from a 2013 report showing that HPV vaccination rates among Florida girls ages 13-17 was 30 to 37.6 percent, falling in the lowest one-third among U.S. states.

As part of a community-wide campaign, DOH-Broward started offering HPV vaccinations in 2015 at its annual Back-to-School Immunization campaign at Lauderhill Mall, with high success. The Department

vaccinated 903 students in that first year, increasing to 1,640 in 2016.



In addition, nurses at DOH health centers increased HPV vaccinations to 869 in 2015 and 2,577 last year.

NACCHO blogger Kim Rodgers called the campaign noteworthy in the nation. She said the big numbers have been attributed to an awareness campaign that included distributing 5,000 palm cards and mobilizing community partners. In addition, DOH-Broward nurses took a new approach to persuade parents to say yes to HPV vaccine, by describing it as cancer prevention.

“Through this series of activities, DOH-Broward produced a major shift in the county’s HPV vaccination rates,” Rodgers wrote

in her blog. “While this intervention is still relatively new, the hope is that DOH-Broward’s continued efforts to drive HPV immunization rates up will eventually help to curb the rates of HPV-associated cancers.”

Photo: DOH nurse Andrea McKinson-Williamson explains vaccine details to MD Patel, 15, of Fort Lauderdale

[Star performers of anti-tobacco advocacy for 2016-17](#)

They’re not the Oscars but the annual awards by the Tobacco-Free Partnership of Broward recognized some big local stars in the fight against inhaled nicotine.

Partnership Chair Don Torok (right) handed out the honors during a breakfast at Holy Cross Hospital’s Dorothy Mangurian Comprehensive Women’s Center. The awards went to (from left):

- Brian Graham of Quit Doc, Organization of the Year.
- Dr. Uche Oluku of the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, Initiative of the Year for smoking restrictions at housing authority complexes.
- Stein Einhorn, Partnership member of the year.
- Melanie Hemphill of Seminole Middle School, a SWAT Club of the Year.
- Student member Rotchy Moricette and advisor Clenner Goodman of Omega Psi Phi Gentlemen of Influence, a SWAT Club of the Year.

Also recognized were Plantation High School SWAT Club, Tamarac City Commissioners Julie Fishman and Michelle Gomez, and former Chair Ellen Feiler.

The event emcee was Dave Aizer, the TV host / producer and writer at WSFL-TV affiliate for CW Network, who shared his personal journey with stage 3A melanoma.



The partnership is organized and staffed by DOH-Broward Tobacco Prevention program.

[Fire department, neurologist win EMS awards from DOH](#)

Two medical emergency providers in Broward County ranked among 15 around the state that won 2017 Excellence in Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Awards from the Florida Department of Health. Coral Springs / Parkland Fire Department won honors as EMS Provider of the Year.

Dr. Brijesh Mehta of Memorial Healthcare Systems was chosen as the Marilyn Crook EMS Pioneer of the Year. A neurologist, Dr. Mehta is based at Memorial Regional Hospital and Memorial West Hospital. He specializes in stroke, neurocritical care and neuroradiology.

"The department is pleased to recognize the brave and honorable efforts of Florida's men and women who serve their community with excellence in emergency medical services," said State Surgeon General and Secretary of Health Dr. Celeste Philip. "Congratulations to the statewide EMS award recipients for their significant contributions to EMS in Florida. We are so thankful for their lifesaving services."

More information: www.EMLRC.org

[Our Programs, Services and Locations](#)

- * [Breast and Cervical Cancer](#) – Mammograms, pap smears, diagnostic testing, medical referrals and education for eligible women
- * [Dental Care](#) – High-quality dental services for children and for adults in the Ryan White Part A program. Also [School-Based Dental Sealant program](#)
- * [Drowning Prevention](#) -- Information and advocacy to prevent childhood drownings
- * [Emergency Response](#) -- Planning, training and response to address emergencies
- * [Environmental Health](#) -- Inspections, permits and sanitary nuisance complaints
- * [Epidemiology](#) -- Monitoring, investigation and control of infectious disease outbreaks, and data collection
- * [Family Planning](#) -- Exams, counseling, birth control and sterilization

- * [Hepatitis](#) – Testing, vaccination, diagnosis and medical referrals
- * [HIV/AIDS Testing](#) – At our locations or in the community
- * [Immunizations](#) – Childhood and adult vaccines
- * [KidCare Outreach](#) -- Recruiting and enrolling families in state-sponsored health coverage for children
- * [Pharmacy](#) – Medications for clients enrolled in AIDS Drug Assistance Program, Ryan White Part A program and our services
- * [Refugee Health](#) – Testing, immunizations and medical referrals
- * [School Health](#) -- Nursing care and health service in schools
- * [Sexually Transmitted Diseases](#) (STD) – Surveillance and partner services. Testing and treatment provided by the Broward Wellness Center under contract with DOH-Broward
- * [Tobacco Prevention](#) -- Education and advocacy to reduce tobacco usage
- * [Tuberculosis](#) – Testing, diagnosis, treatment and directly observed therapy
- * [Vital Records](#) -- Birth and death certificates
- * [Women, Infants and Children \(WIC\)](#) – Breastfeeding support, nutrition counseling, nutritious foods and referrals

HEALTH CENTERS and WOMEN INFANTS AND CHILDREN (WIC) OFFICES



Edgar P. Mills Health Center | 900 NW 31st Ave., Fort Lauderdale

Fort Lauderdale Health Center | 2421 SW 6th Ave.

Paul Hughes Health Center | 205 NW Sixth Ave., Pompano Beach

North Regional Health Center | 601 W. Atlantic Blvd., Pompano Beach
(No WIC)

South Regional Health Center | 4105 Pembroke Rd., Hollywood

WIC-ONLY OFFICES

Coral Springs | 10077 NW 29th Street

Lauderdale Lakes | 4481 North State Road 7

Pembroke Pines | 8374 Pines Boulevard

OTHER

Administrative Center | 780 SW 24th Street, Fort Lauderdale FL 33315

Operations Center | 2421-A SW 6th Avenue, Fort Lauderdale

CALL FOR APPOINTMENTS: [Health centers](#) 954-467-4705 or [WIC](#) 954-767-5111

Editor's note on Issue #13

Public Health Broward is published by the Florida Department of Health in Broward County

Mission: To protect, promote and improve the health of all people in Florida through integrated state, county and community efforts.

Vision: To be the Healthiest State in the Nation

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